



SENATE GOVERNMENT OVERSIGHT & REFORM COMMITTEE – Proponent
Testimony, Substitute HB 542, November 30th, 2022

Chair Roegner, Vice Chair McColley, Ranking Member Craig, and members of the committee, thank you for holding this hearing and for the opportunity to submit written testimony.

As one of the largest grassroots organizations in the country, Americans for Prosperity (AFP) is driving long-term solutions to some of the country's biggest problems. Our organization, and its thousands of activists across Ohio, are dedicated to breaking barriers that stand in the way of people realizing their full potential. Removing or reducing these barriers, in whatever forms they take, helps move our society toward one of mutual benefit, where people succeed by helping others improve their lives and by transforming their communities. Accordingly, I am here to express support for Substitute HB 542.

AFP – Ohio strongly supports this legislation after the actions taken in this committee two weeks ago, which essentially amended [SB 133](#) into this bill. My organization has been strongly supportive of this concept over multiple General Assemblies; below is an excerpt of my testimony supporting SB 133 in the Senate Small Business & Economic Opportunity Committee from earlier this General Assembly:

“While AFP Ohio ultimately believes that government should focus on less onerous and more effective oversight of such professions as cosmetology and barbering than government licensure, SB 133 makes improvements over the status quo for these occupations to be more accessible career paths.

Changes that would occur with enactment of SB 133 include:

- Reduces training for barbers, cosmetologists, hair designers, and related professions by hundreds of hours
- Allows opportunities to take government mandated examinations ahead of completing training hours

- Consolidating and cosmetology licensing requirements to remove some redundancy
- License by endorsement procedures for those wishing to use out of state licenses to practice in Ohio

Today, licensing burdens reduce employment opportunities for many Ohioans while cutting off rungs on the economic mobility ladder for people trying to improve their lives. A recent national [study](#) found that current governmental licensing barriers already cost Ohio over 67,750 jobs, \$209 million in deadweight economic losses, and over \$6 billion in misallocated resources annually. In other words, people are spending more than they would have, and on different things, than if Ohio's many government licensing laws weren't creating barriers to needed products and services.

Research also shows that in more onerously licensed states, [entrepreneurship](#) rates are lower among low-income residents, [recidivism](#) rates are higher for ex-offenders, and other unintended consequences such as [increased crime rates](#) occur due to decreased employment opportunities.

Ohioans, and those wishing to move to Ohio to contribute to our economy, deserve the dignity of personal choice as consumers and the ability to support their families without undue government burdens as they seek fulfilling work. Today many government occupational licensing requirements are anti-competitive, needlessly burdensome, and oftentimes [ineffective](#) at addressing public health and safety concerns. As we continue to drive internal occupational licensing reform, we urge you to please support SB 133 to reduce some of the burdens Ohio's aspiring cosmetologists and barbers face."

AFP – Ohio applauds this committee's efforts in attempting to pass this important reform before the 134th General Assembly concludes its work, and we strongly urge the full Senate to bring Substitute HB 542 to the floor for a vote as soon as possible.

Thank you, Madam Chair for the opportunity to submit this testimony, and for your steadfast leadership regarding regulatory and occupational licensure reform.

Jeff Dillon, Ohio Legislative Director, Americans for Prosperity

Americans for Prosperity (AFP) exists to recruit, educate, and mobilize citizens in support of the policies and goals of a free society at the local, state, and federal level, helping every American live their dream – especially the least fortunate. AFP has more than 3.2 million activists across the nation, a local infrastructure that includes 36 state chapters, and has received financial support from more than 100,000 Americans in all 50 states. For more information, visit www.AmericansForProsperity.org.